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April 22, 2025

Representative Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Casey,

I am writing regarding House Bill 6162, introduced by Representatives Kislak, Slater, Ajello, and Biah, to allow the City of Providence a one-year levy cap for fiscal year 2026, not to exceed eight percent (8%).

The Community Libraries of Providence provides essential services to the residents of Providence and receives over 75% of its annual budget from the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island. We appreciate that Mayor Smiley has proposed a budget that maintains library funding in FY 2026. We understand the City is facing difficult circumstances and is working diligently to determine a path forward that minimizes impact to its residents and services. This tool would continue to enable municipal leaders to do so thoughtfully.

We encourage the committee to ensure that the City of Providence has all the necessary tools to continue meeting its financial obligations and providing essential services to its residents. As the City of Providence is our biggest funder, our nine neighborhood libraries and the people we support will be deeply affected by any municipal funding cuts.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Space
Library Director

FOX POINT
KNIGHT MEMORIAL
MOUNT PLEASANT
OLNEYVILLE
ROCK AWAY
SMITH HILL
SOUTH PROVIDENCE
WANSICKER
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